

(12) PATENT APPLICATION
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

(11) Application No. AU 200157853 A1

(54) Title
Zipperlope

(51)⁷ International Patent Classification(s)
B42D 015/08

(21) Application No: **200157853**

(22) Application Date: **2001.08.09**

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number
PQ3770

(32) Date
1999.11.01

(33) Country
AU

(43) Publication Date : **2001.12.20**

(43) Publication Journal Date : **2001.12.20**

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Page(s).¹..... were not lodged
with this application

The Invention relates to the currently used Envelopes which are commonly used in the housing or covering of written messages, documents, letters etc. in order to mail or transport same from one address to another.

5 Such envelopes as are currently in use are difficult to open without a tool such as a letter opener and can generally only be used once. This means that the current envelope is not only hard to open but it is also wasteful in its current form of single use as world wood reserves are stressed.

10 Other methods used to tear open an envelope in a similar fashion as described in this method require a transparent window in order to get a second use out of the said envelope. This therefore limits its use to Official or Office type use, as it is very difficult to place and secure an address behind such a window without prefolded and premeasured spacings.

15 The Zipperlope changes all of the above shortcomings in so much as it becomes a tool-free, opening and closing, multi-use envelope for everyone. Those on a tight budget such as Pensioners would need to buy fewer envelopes as the Zipperlope can be used up to four times depending on the number of openers or zippers which are added at manufacture.

20 In the case of a string being employed as a zipper, the Zipperlope device differs greatly from that of known string opening devices in so much as known devices have the string placed in the fold of the material such as paper and therefore once used for its purpose the envelope has been rendered useless, whereas the Zipperlope string or similar when used creates a flap ready for reasealment.

25 In yet another version, the Zipperlope is made of one single cutout of material such as paper etc. and has one large flap which covers the entire face of one side of the Zipperlope with two glue strips and two cover strips to its under
30 (inner) side. One at the top and one (strip) at the bottom, each with a single row of perforations along the side thus replacing the previously described zipper with a completely tear away face ready for reuse. In this way an

envelope or Zipperlope has no old or used address, stamps or sender on it for the second mailing.

The Zipperlope therefore changes all up to date known envelopes in so much as the string cuts a new flap as it opens and provides for multiple use.

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The Zipperlope is

a) sealable at the bottom (see Fig 1-2) instead of an envelope which is sealable at the top.

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b) features three or more separate glue strips with three or more separate glue cover strips (see Fig 1-2) instead of the current single one.

c) has two or more preprinted faces (see Fig 4).

d) has two or more zipper like strips with a tab on one end thus permitting the user (recipient) to literally zip the Zipperlope open without the use of tools or risk of the contents being damaged.

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Most importantly, the Zipperlope is Environmentally Friendly as well as Consumer Friendly.

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The Claims defining the invention are as follows:

1) The ZIPPERLOPE device comprising of a shape cut from any type of sheeting such as paper or plastic when folded and glued three ways will form the basis for an envelope like mail receptacle.

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2) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claim 1 wherein when folded and glued a separate secondary shape is attached to one side at the bottom of the primary shape forming a flap to the primary shape.

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3) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claims 1-2 wherein the secondary shape referred as a flap has four separately perforated lines providing the weakness as well as the guide lines along which it will tear, hereby referred to as the Zippers.

15

4) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claims 2 & 3 wherein after self adhesive glue has been applied three separate or semi detached waxed or other like protective strips are spread over the glue surfaces.

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5) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claim 1 wherein both sides are preprinted showing both address and sender on each side as well as showing that ZIPPERLOPES are opened and closed at the bottom.

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6) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claim 4 wherein other methods of adhesion are used, protective cover strips may not be necessary.

7) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claims 1-6 wherein when the first of three protective glue cover strips has been removed and the flap pressed shut either side may be torn open and resealed.

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8) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claim 3 wherein the parts described as the Zippers may be reinforced in a number of different ways such as folding, overlapping and gluing of the flap itself or simply adding and gluing separate strips of paper, plastic, strings or other such materials.

9) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claims 3 & 8 wherein the parts described as the zippers will only require two single strips of perforations if the zipper is made of string or similar, or uses the single shape with the large flap.

10) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claims 1-9 wherein the envelope does not require a transparent window for a return or second use.

11) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claims 1-10 wherein the envelope may be used up to four times, so long as four zippers are employed, as the envelope can thereby be inverted.

12) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claims 1-2-4-5-6-7 & (more importantly) 9 wherein the string used to open the Zipperlope has a double function as in opening it, the string cuts its own flap ready for resealment.

13) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claims 1-5-6 & 9 wherein a single shape with a flap large enough to cover the entire face of one side has two or more glue and glue covered strips and two or more perforated strips along its glue lines.

14) The ZIPPERLOPE device of Claims 1-5-6-9 & 13 wherein the large flap with its glue strips and perforated sides becomes in the opening process a tear of old address, sender, stamps and all other markings whilst creating within this process a new flap for resealment.

The Abstract:

The ZIPPERLOPE device is either one or two flat shapes (see Fig 3 & 4) that when folded and glued will form a mail receptacle now commonly known as an Envelope (see Fig 1).

With two or more separately preprinted Mailing Faces (see Fig 4) and a double sided perforated zip or pull tab (see Fig 3) plus two or more resealable glue strips or in the case of the large flap two or more glue and cover strips with perforated sides creating a tear away or peel off face ready for its second or consecutive uses (see Fig 5).

The ZIPPERLOPE device is reusable, hands only, easy opening and with zero damage to the contents of the Envelope.

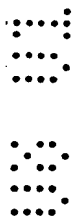
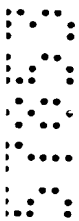


FIGURE 1

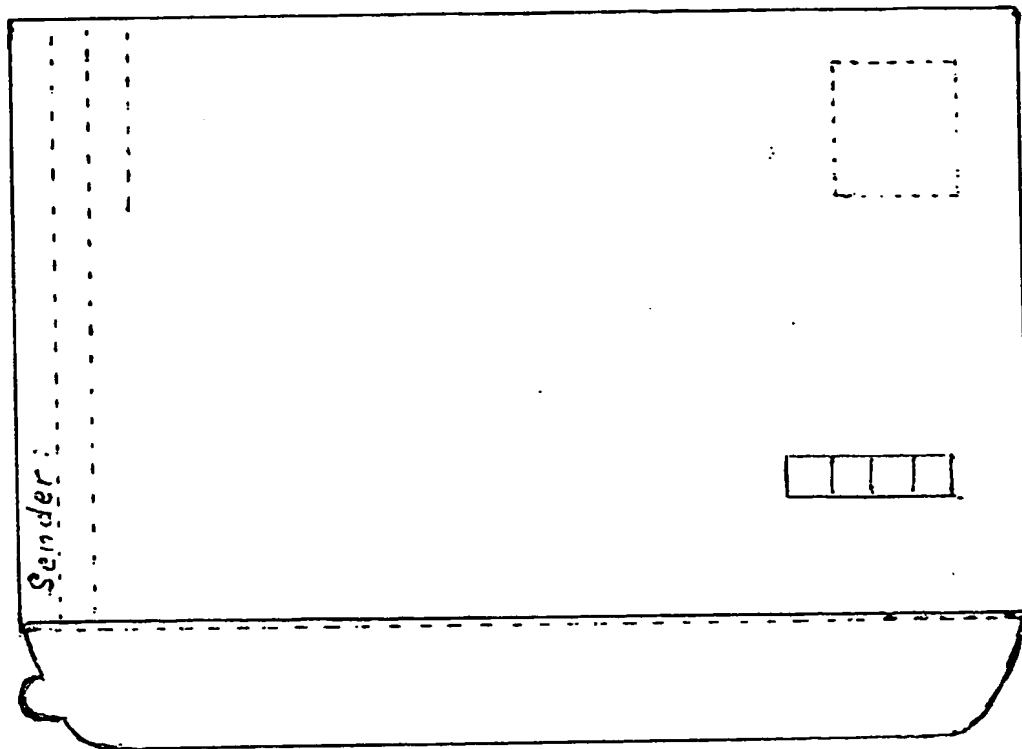


FIGURE 2

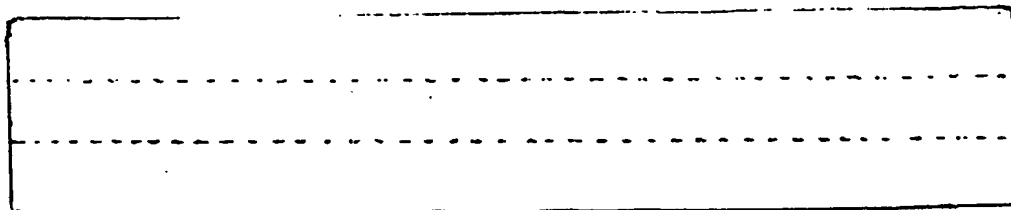


FIGURE 3

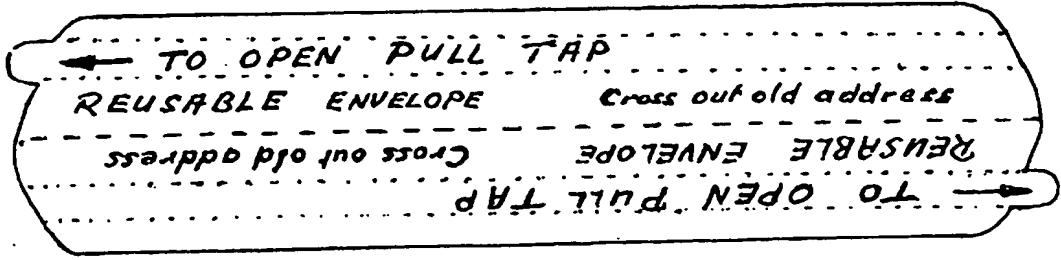
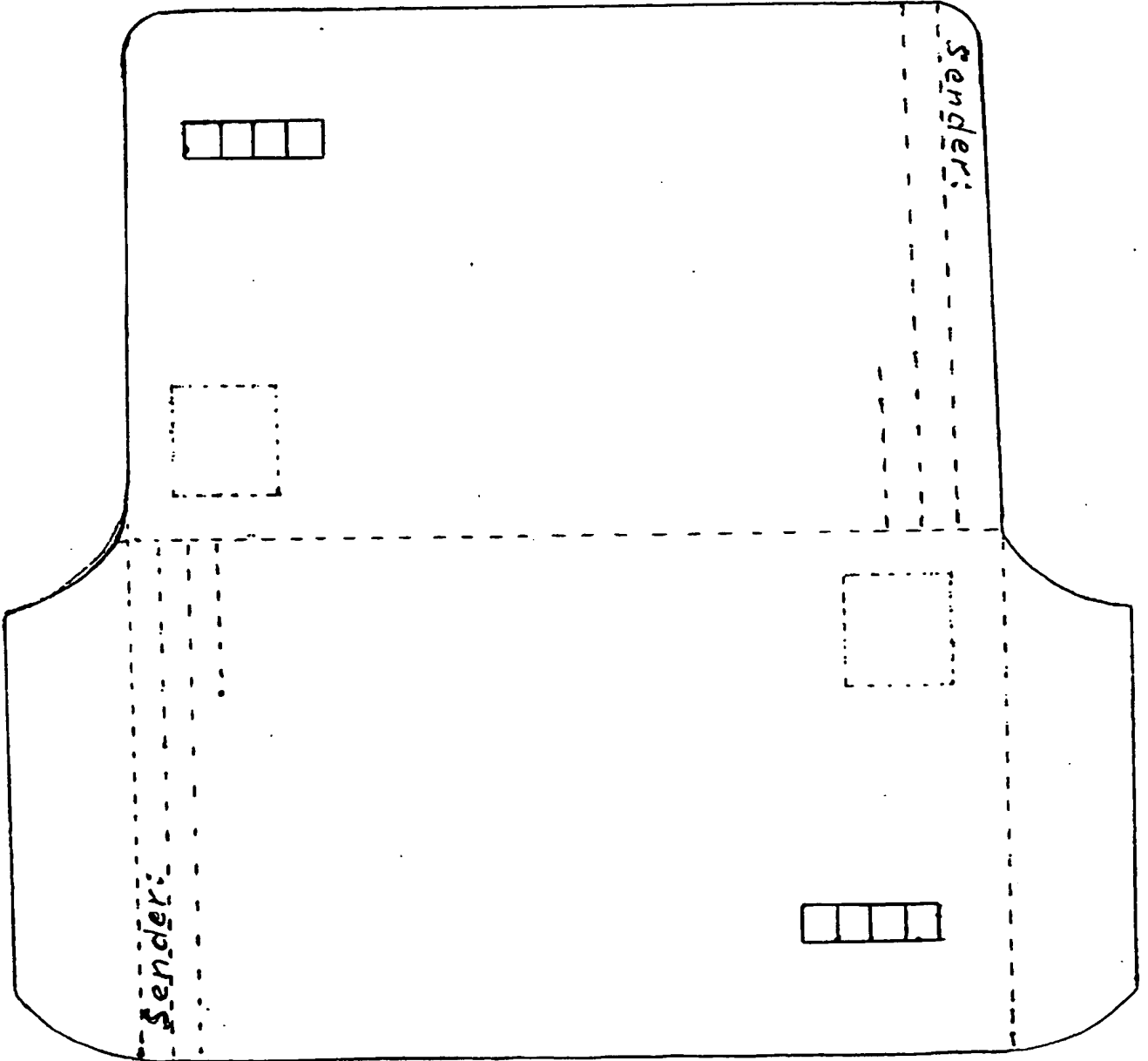
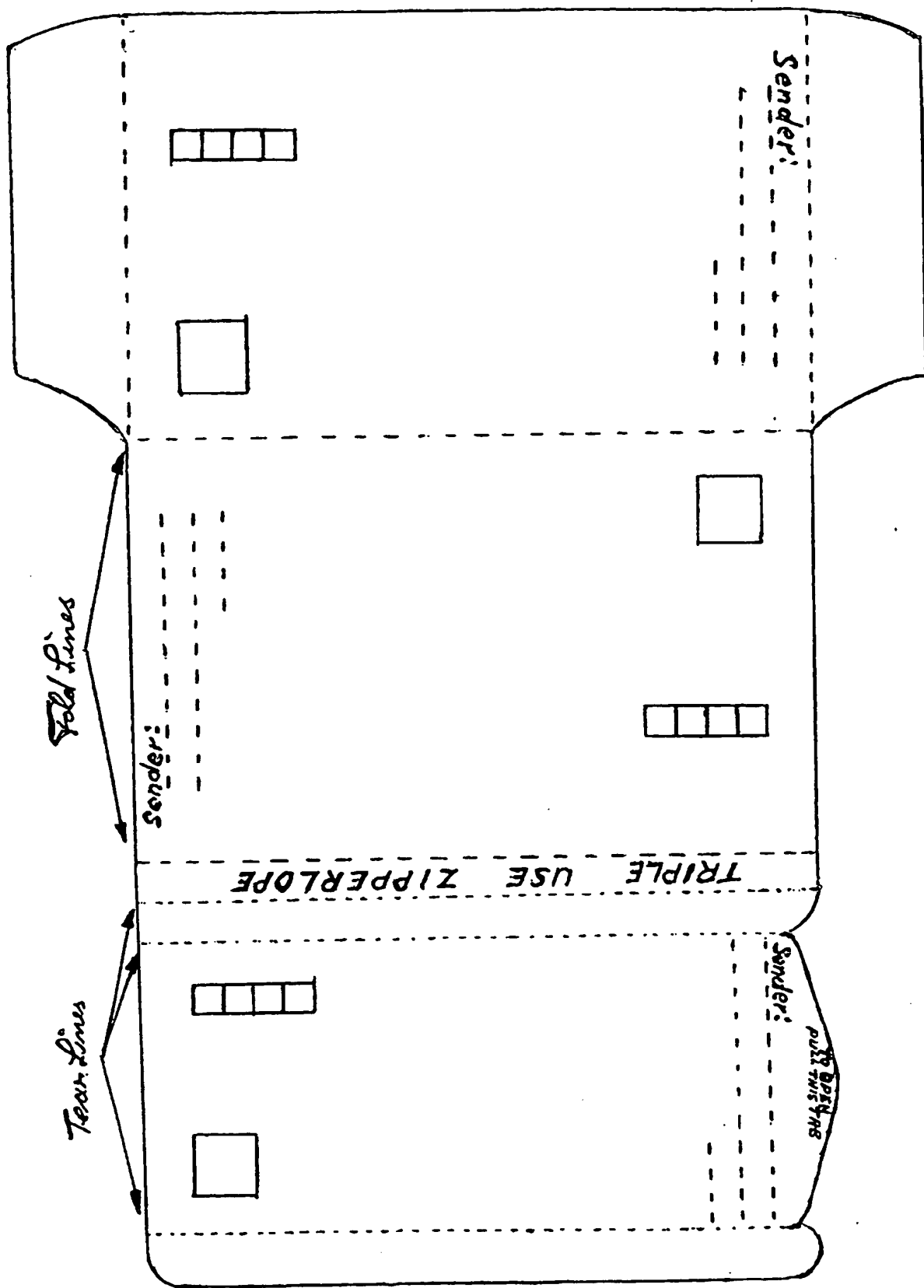


FIGURE 4



The figure shows four 5x5 dot patterns arranged horizontally. The first pattern represents the digit '0', the second '1', the third '2', and the fourth '3'. Each pattern is formed by black dots on a white background.

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